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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,932	12/19/2001	Mitsuyuki Goto	217593US2	9890
22850	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			KRAMER, JAMES A	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PAPER NUMBER	

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/020,932	Applicant(s) GOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner James A. Kramer	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/3/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor et al. in view of Hahn-Carlson.

Cukor et al. teaches a shipment system including processing of document images. Cukor et al. teaches generating image data of a document on which a condition of exporting or importing of goods is described (see for example column 5, lines 37-42) and storing the image data (see for example column 5, lines 42-47).

Cukor et al. further teaches storing document data described on said document (see for example column 6, lines 49-56).

Cukor et al. teaches a data output step for outputting the images and the document data (see for example column 9, lines 18-35).

Cukor et al. does not teach a storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import wherein the data output corresponds to a range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party.

Hahn-Carlson teaches a shipment transaction system that store information associated with shipment transactions. The system of Hahn-Carlson includes allowing access to the information by authorized users in order to reduce administrative costs (see for example column 4, lines 15-20). To achieve this the system of Hahn-Carlson includes an authorized user profile list which stores information associated with each of the authorized users (see for example column 7, lines 44-52). The system then compares elements of transaction information with the authorized user list to determine what transaction information a user is authorized to view (see for example column 11, lines 17-22). Examiner notes that this represents Applicant's range of output enabled data associated with the concerned party.

Returning to Cukor et al. Examiner notes the teaching that it is common for shippers or consignees (concerned parties) to require that the shipping invoice be accompanied by copies of various documents, such as bill of lading, purchase order, or signed delivery receipt (see column 12, lines 25-29). To achieve this Cukor et al. downloads the images which are printed at the central station.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the central station of Cukor et al. to allow access to the information by authorized user as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Specifically, it would have been obvious to include in the central

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processing station of Cukor et al. an authorized user list, and to compare transaction information with authorized user list thus determining what transaction information a user is authorized to view prior to displaying the information as taught by Hahn-Carlson. Examiner notes that this modification would be particularly helpful in providing the accompanying documents with the shipping invoice of Cukor et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to reduce administrative costs.

Cukor et al. teaches procedures for execution of importing and exporting goods (see for example column 12, lines 25-50). Examiner notes that attaching a list of required documents with a shipping invoice represents a procedure for the execution of importing and exporting goods. However, Cukor et al. does not specifically teach storing as document data an execution date for the procedure.

Hahn-Carlson teaches identifying transaction procedures based on an effective date. In particular the effective date is store and associated with a transaction and payment process automatically begins on that date (execution of procedures associated with the date) (see for example column 13, lines 10-15) Hahn-Carlson teaches this expedites the payment process.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention modify the system of Cukor et al. to include the storage of an effective date (execution date) as taught by Hahn-Carlson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the references in order to expedite the process of attaching the required documents.

In addition, Cukor teaches determining a type of generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converting said image data to said predetermined type and storing converted image data (see column 7, lines 39-54).

Cukor et al. teaches that the invoicing is performed by the host computer (person who conducts the procedure) and received by the shipper or consignees (person who receives said procedure) (see column 12, lines 16-30).

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Cukor does not specifically teach that the output display information includes a diagram illustrating a person who is a recipient of said procedure. However Cukor includes such a diagram, see for instance Figure 1. Examiner notes that one of ordinary skill would recognize that such diagrams enhance the user experience. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the display information of Cukor to include a diagram such as the one taught in Figure 1 of Cukor. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to enhance the user experience.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cukor in view of Hahn-Carlson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pure PDF.

The combination of Cukor and Hahn-Carlson does not specifically teach predetermined type as PDF. Examiner submits the article "Pure PDF" as evidence that at the time of the present invention the PDF document format was old and well known as ideal for cross-platform operations (see lines 9-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

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time of the present invention to modify the predetermined format of Cukor to include PDF as taught to be old and well known by Pure PDF. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to produce a system ideal for cross-platform operations.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/3/06, with respect to claims 1-22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to newly added claim 23, Examiner notes that the arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office Action.

On the last paragraph of page 12 through page 14 Applicant makes the argument that no matter how the teachings of '444 and '896 are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest an image data storage step that determines a type of generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converts the image data to the predetermined type and stores the converted image data. Examiner respectfully disagrees and points to Cukor column 7, lines 39-54 for such a teaching. Examiner also references the rejection above, which now includes this analysis. As Examiner believes the Office's position is clear with respect to this limitation.

On page 15, Applicant asserts that the combination of '444 and '896 fail to teach a diagram illustrating a correspondence between a person who conducts the procedure and a recipient. Examiner agrees and notes that analysis of the claims present in this Office Action

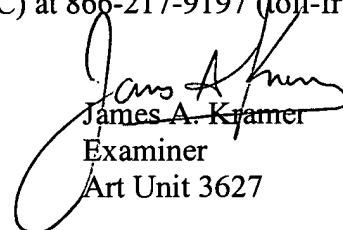
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include a discussion of this matter. Specifically, Examiner discuss this modification to Cukor above. Examiner believes the rejection of the claims presented above makes the Office's position clear with respect to this limitation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272 6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627
3/10/06

jak